

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.

Airmen of the Year

*Top enlisted members
chosen to represent wing*

► Pages 8-9

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Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

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On the cover

Meet the 934th
Airmen of the Year,
Pages 8-9. Shown
are, from right:

Senior Airman
Aidan Anderson,
AES; and Tech.
Sgt. Vicky Kuntz
and Master Sgt.
Darrell Habisch,
AW.



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

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UTA schedule

March 6-7 ▶ UTA entrees:
April 10-11 Saturday, **pork**
May 1-2 **chops** and
June 5-6 **meatloaf**; Sunday,
July 10-11 **baked ham** and **fish**.
Aug. 7-8
Sept. 11-12 ▶ UTA pay date:
Feb. 17.

934th Airlift Wing on the Internet:
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/default.htm>

Commentary

Spread the word

Community needs to hear about Reserve contributions

Col. Richard Moss
Wing Commander

Last month, I had the pleasure of giving several presentations to local civic groups about the contributions of the 934th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve to the nation's defense and the Air Force.



Moss

The contributions we make to the total force surprised the members of the audience who, although they were knowledgeable about the Air Force, knew very little about the Air Force Reserve and the 934th, the economic impact we have on the Twin Cities or the sacrifices Reserve members make.

Over the years, we have always been reluctant to "toot our own horn" and get our message out about what we do. We simply did our job. We can no longer do this. In today's environment, fewer and fewer people are familiar with the role of the military since they have never had the opportunity to serve in the military. We need the support of our communities and can get it only by keeping them informed about the role of this wing and the Air Force Reserve.

You can help by talking to your friends, neighbors and elected officials and telling them the story of the Air Force Reserve. Some major points you need to inform them about are:

▶ The Air Force Reserve provides 20 percent of the combat capability of the Air Force for only 4 percent of the budget;

▶ The Air Force Reserve operates 11 installations throughout the states, including one here at

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station;

▶ The 934th has an annual economic impact in the Twin Cities area of more than \$56,000,000;

▶ Every day, reservists are deployed throughout the world supporting contingencies and humanitarian missions or simply augmenting the active force in their day-to-day missions. For example, the 934th will deploy more than 800 people in fiscal year 1999 for annual tour training or active-duty support;

▶ Reservists maintain the same training standards as their active-duty counterparts and are evaluated to the same standards; and

▶ Reservists do all this **on a volunteer basis** in addition to their full-time civilian jobs.

We also need to keep our civilian employers informed. You are required to inform your employer as far in advance as possible whenever you are required to pull Reserve duty so they can plan for your absence. When you return from pulling Reserve duty, make sure you let them know what you accomplished during your tour. Most importantly, continually thank them for their support. Only by keeping them totally informed can you expect their continued support.

We, the 934th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve Command, have a great story to tell. Let's tell it. □

Commander's Hot Line 713-HOTL

Call 713-4685 to record questions for the wing commander. Callers may remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.



Pay improvements announced

With the support of the president and Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary **William Cohen** recently announced a proposal for significant pay increases for active-duty and reserve-forces members in the fiscal year 2000 budget. Retirement improvements for active duty members are included.

The Department of Defense's pay and retirement package has three main parts and is designed to attract and retain the high-quality force credited with the recent success of Operation Desert Fox in Iraq.

The first improvement is a 4.4 percent across-the-board pay raise for fiscal year 2000, the largest pay increase since 1982. It is expected to be followed by annual increases of 3.9 percent through 2005.

The second improvement targets raises for noncommissioned officers and mid-grade commissioned officers, ranging from half of 1 percent to 5.5 percent. These targeted pay raises are proposed to take effect July 1, 2000, in addition to the 4.4 percent raise everybody would receive Jan. 1, 2000.

Also included in this second improvement is the first systematic reform of the pay table in nearly 50 years. Over the years, the pay table has been distorted to the point where some raises for promotion are disproportionately low while raises based on longevity are high. Reforms will alter this to reward skill and performance.

The third part of the package, improvement of the active-duty retirement system, returns to the 50 percent of base pay system instead of the 40 percent rate for members who joined since 1986.

"We need to compensate men and women in uniform properly in relation to their peers and in relation to the larger economy," said Cohen. "And the compensation system must help the services recruit and retain the high-quality men and women our defense requires." (*Air Force Print News*)

Inspection questions welcomed

Anyone with a question for the Air Force Inspector General is invited to participate in a new forum featured by *TIG Brief* magazine, "Ask the IG."

The forum is not meant for complaints but to request the IG's perspective on inspection matters. Questions may be asked anonymously, and questions/comments/kudos will be considered for publishing in a future issue of the magazine.

Submit questions in writing to: Ask the IG, *TIG Brief* Magazine, 9700 G Avenue S.E., Suite 378J, Kirtland AFB NM 87124-5670, or e-mail to tigbrief@kafb.saia.af.mil. (*Air Force Inspection Agency*)

New fitness test gets tested

Twelve bases have been selected to serve as test sites as the Air Force prepares to add muscular fitness and flexibility tests to its annual physical fitness assessment.

Bases selected are: Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.; Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Des Moines Air National Guard Base, Iowa; F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.; Grand Forks AFB, N.D.; Hickam AFB,

Hawaii; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Randolph AFB, Texas; Shaw AFB, S.C.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; and the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

Members at the test bases will do push-ups, sit-ups and the sit-and-reach flexibility tests in conjunction with their annual cycle ergometry testing. Results of the test phase will be used to evaluate the testing procedure and further define standards to be used when the program expands throughout the Air Force in January 2000. (*AFPN*)

'Must runs' announced

The following were designated "must run" items from Air Force Print News:

► Joint chiefs request more funds for readiness.

Calling the president's proposed injection of \$110 billion into the Pentagon's budget over the next five years a "good start," the Air Force chief of staff and other military service chiefs asked members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 5 to support a greater, sustained boost in funds for readiness.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff told the senators additions are needed to stem the continuing decline in readiness, reverse an alarming loss of people and combat increasing rates of aircraft cannibalization. **Gen. Michael Ryan**, Air Force chief of staff, joined the chairman of the joint chiefs and the other service chiefs in requesting \$30 billion more in Air Force spending dedicated to readiness over the next six years. This is in addition to billions of dollars the president has already proposed for fiscal year 2000 pay and active-duty retirement benefit increases.

► Tuition program assists civilians.

The Civilian Tuition Assistance Program is designed to benefit the Air Force mission by providing tuition assistance for mission-related courses and to help Air Force civilian non-acquisition employees attain their educational goals. While courses must be validated as mission-related, the CTAP differs from standard Air Force training in that employees, rather than management, identify requirements, initiate requests for specific courses, share in the cost and attend on a voluntary basis. The program is supported by civilian training funds and supplemented by funds from major commands, so assistance varies depending on availability of funds.

◉For details, qualified career program registrants should contact their career program manager. Other employees should call **Bev Foster**, 934th Civilian Personnel Office, Ext. 1483.

► Bone marrow program seeks donors.

There are more than 100 bone marrow donation centers in the country linked to the National Bone Marrow Donor Program. The program provides, on a volunteer basis, unrelated donors for patients needing bone marrow transplants.

The Department of Defense's C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Center, Kensington, Md., supports this humanitarian mission and also provides immediate donor searches and

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Briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

follow up in the event of a mass-casualty incident. The military is the nation's largest source of whole-blood donations. Since the program began in 1986, more than 180,000 DOD volunteers have registered in the marrow donor program, and the Young Center's goal is to recruit at least 25,000 more annually.

①Anyone interested should call (800) MARROW-3.

'Brief briefs'

► **Uniform catalogs offered online.** Always free to U.S. service members, the new military clothing catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are now available worldwide instantly via the Internet at:

www.aafes.com

► **New chairman chosen.** **Thomas Irwin**, vice president for flight operations, Trans World Airlines, has been selected as the new national chairman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or NCESGR.

► **Base installs detectors.** Following two cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, base officials installed detectors throughout housing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., recently. In both cases, victims experienced flu-like symptoms. (*Air Mobility Command News Service*)

► **New officer course enters testing.** What began as the Lieutenant's Professional Development Program in 1979, only to die in the mid-1980s, has reemerged once again in a test phase as the Company Grade Officer Course. Hurlburt Field, Fla., is serving as the test base. (*Air Force Print News unless otherwise stated*)

Local

W-2s mailed last month

The 1998 W-2 Wage and Tax Statements were scheduled to be mailed by Jan. 15. Wing reservists who have not yet received the tax form, call military pay, Ext. 1407 or 1411.

Membership drive held

The Air Force Sergeants Association is holding its spring membership drive through April 30. The organization is open to active-duty and reserve-forces members, retirees and anyone who served in the armed forces.

Cost is \$15 annually for airmen through staff sergeants and \$21 dollars for others. Reduced prices are levied for multi-year or life memberships, and coupons are available for other discounts for new or rejoining members. AFSA benefits include legislative presence, a monthly magazine, various insurance programs, a home-buying/relocation service and more.

①Applications are available in all orderly rooms or from **Master Sgt. Lin Davidson**, (612) 884-6077. □

News bytes

Ground breaking for lodging facility scheduled for September

Mark Davidson
Public Affairs

The new 300-room lodging facility is closer to becoming reality in the fall of 1999, according to wing officials.

"The ground breaking for Phase I for the new lodging facility should take place in September, with completion of the phase in September 2000," said **Col. Richard Moss**, wing commander.

Phase I will be the middle building of the three-building complex, according to **Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz**, 934th Support Group commander.

"The Phase I building will have 35 rooms, office space, some VIP suites and be three stories high," said Groskreutz.

Wing officials are working with Minnesota's congressional delegation to combine Phases II-IV of the lodging project into one phase and save money and construction time, according to Groskreutz.

"We can save \$1.2 million from the overall cost of \$14 million by combining the phases, resulting in the facility being ready sooner than the original completion date of 2003," said Groskreutz.

Briefings to the Minnesota congressional delegation over the last three years have shown the congressmen and their staffers how a new lodging facility would benefit all of the Department of Defense commands in the Twin Cities and the state, according to Moss.

"**Col. Michael Gjede**, the former 934th commander, started the new lodging facility process with the local military commanders a few years ago, and I've kept it up with the other commanders in the congressional briefings," said Moss.

The key meeting that got the facility funding solidified was on Jun. 15, 1998, according to Moss, when **Rep. Gil Gutknecht** of Minnesota brought in **Rep. David Hobson** of Ohio and **Rep. Roger Wicker** of Mississippi for a briefing on the need for a new lodging facility for all of the military commands.

"We explained and demonstrated the need for the new facility for all of the Minnesota military needs," said Moss. "We also showed how a modern and updated lodging facility would meet Air Force standards now and in the future."

That visit helped secure the House-initiated insert providing

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funding for Phase I of the new lodging facility into the fiscal year 1999 Department of Defense appropriations and authorization bill, according to Groskreutz. The entire Minnesota congressional delegation supported this effort.

"We are sincerely appreciative of the efforts of the entire Minnesota congressional delegation to get the new lodging facility," said Moss. "We are especially appreciative of Representative Gutknecht and his staff in their efforts in getting Representative Hobson and Representative Wicker to Minnesota for the briefing."

Panama rotation supports relief efforts

Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams

Public Affairs

When most people think of Central America, thoughts of monkeys, tree sloths and iguanas might cross their minds. Others might think about fishing, snorkeling and other outdoor sports. For 56 members of the 934th Airlift Wing, a recent rotation to Central America provided still another perspective.

Between Nov. 21 and Dec. 6, the wing deployed three planes for routine support of Coronet Oak at Howard Air Force Base, Panama.

Then came Mitch.

Hurricane Mitch, deemed the most powerful hurricane in approximately 300 years hurled heavy rains and howling winds upon Honduras and Nicaragua. While most people watched the news of the destruction, deaths and appeals for the chronic need of relief supplies from the comfort of their living rooms, the 934th Coronet Oak reservists assisted in the relief efforts with humanitarian missions. They also performed their regular Southern Command duties.

According to **Staff Sgt Chris Rieland**, loadmaster with the 96th Airlift Squadron, "We took approximately 56 tons of medical supplies, equipment and building materials into Honduras and Nicaragua to some of the most isolated areas. We also supported military people who were already there by bringing them their food and mail."

During the two-week mission, the wing joined forces with Air National Guard units from Oklahoma and Texas during the first week, and Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., for the second.

According to **Master Sgt. John Lightner**, accessory maintenance flight chief, "We were flying only one or two planes a day for the first week, but they had so much stuff and no room for storage that they cancelled us on the second week.

"We're used to flying three or four planes a day down there," he added. "As far as we're concerned it was a pretty light mission." This was Lightner's fifteenth deployment to Panama in 20 years.

"The work load was pretty light," said **Tech. Sgt. Pete Welter**, hydraulics specialist. "I think they only flew a dozen missions. Yet when you are working down there, everyone pulls together to get the work done, and you get the work done fast."

Lightner agreed. "We always bring a good crew there," he said. "They're outstanding and can solve practically any problem we come across."

While it was hot and rainy, typical of Panama weather following the rainy season, it was still mild compared to weather associated with Mitch and did not affect the overall mission.

"Every now and then we would have to get off the flightline for 15 to 20 minutes because of lightning," said Welter. "Other than that, the weather did not affect us."

Reiland, on his third rotation to Panama in six years, was reflective when it came to the importance of the hurricane relief efforts.

"We heard about the devastation while still in the states, but it didn't hit home quite as much as being there," he said. "While in Honduras, I saw a lot of bridges that were destroyed by the overflowing rivers, and in Managua, Nicaragua, you could see more damage, because the level of the lake had risen. You could see the lumber and debris in the lake from where houses had been."

Reiland gladly did his part to help. "It was rewarding to go out and actually help in some aspect with relief for the largest disaster in something like 300 years," he said.

Welter doubts that he will be able to go on the February rotation to Panama. After going nine times in 10 years, he remains fond of the Coronet Oak deployments. "I love Panama," he said. "I go back every year. If I could go again, I would."

Medical building renovations continue

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

Public Affairs

Renovations are underway on Bldg. 740. The planned improvements include major remodeling of the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron part of the building and a new storage facility for the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

The \$518,600 project is scheduled to be completed April 1.

"We wanted to better utilize the existing space," said **Leslie Canarr**, project engineer, 934th Base Civil Engineering. "We sat down with the building users to find out what they needed. The 934th ASTS needed storage so we constructed a storage facility on the back of the building."

Other changes to the clinic include a new audio room, a new doctors office, new carpeting and new wallpaper.

"On the AES side, we are ripping down walls and opening up space," he said. "They needed a larger space for training, so their classroom is being enlarged."

As a result of the classroom expansion, the main entrance to the AES will be moved to the north side of the building, with the current entrance becoming an emergency exit. The entire building will have sprinklers and smoke detectors installed.

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News bytes

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four to five years to complete, there are already other changes that need to be made.

"We've asked for additional changes, but haven't received funding yet," he said. "The design is 80 percent adequate. We're trying to make changes to the other 20 percent."

Possible plans include either expanding the existing building or building a new facility for one of the squadrons, he said.

"We had 45 people when we moved in this building in 1985," said **2nd Lt. Gail Gregor**, director of medical logistics and project manager for ASTS. "Now we have 112 people in our unit."

"We're hoping with any luck to be shutting down for more remodeling in two years," Canarr said.

Aerial port excels in defense training

Tech Sgt. Janet Byerly

Public Affairs

Usually someone earns an impossibly high mark on a test, throwing off the grading curve for the rest of the students.

The 27th Aerial Port Squadron sent 11 members to an air base ground defense school called Phoenix Readiness recently, setting the standard for groups that follow them at the Fort Dix, N.J., school.

Although no grades were assigned, the aerial porters played a key role in repelling opposition forces attack during a three day exercise at the end of the course, according to **Capt. Dave Mattson**, deputy commander for the exercise and officer in charge of the air terminal operations center here.

According to Mattson, APS was the first Reserve aerial port unit to complete this training.

The exercise was the culmination of the two-week course that included classroom instruction and field training in areas such as foot patrols, armed convoys, defensive fighting positions and foreign weapons familiarization, he said.

"Our guys are used to teaming up with active-duty units and getting down to business," said Mattson. "Once we were broken up into fire teams, it was impossible to tell an active-duty member from a reservist."

"They really emphasized force protection, teaching us our own skills," he continued. "We had to set up operations based on intelligence on threat forces, weapons, and the scenario which was a Balkans scenario with a number of factions in the area."

The opposition forces included British Special Air Service troopers who "thought we'd be a pushover because we'd only had a few days of training," Mattson said.

Despite a scenario favoring the opposition forces, the aerial porters held their ground, he said. "The SAS officers said we were a formidable opponent," Mattson said.

Now back at home station, they plan to incorporate what they've learned into the APS annual training plan.

Because of changing mission requirements, the AES wanted more open space with work stations rather than offices. "Partition walls are cheaper to move," Canarr said.

As with anything taking

"I told the guys to remember this exercise so we can make it part of our bivouac," Mattson said.

Like earning the highest grade on a test, it's not something they're likely to forget.

Navy members train with wing reservists

Tech Sgt. Janet Byerly

Public Affairs

The young mechanic drains oil from the propeller with the help of several other airmen. Although all of them wear battle dress uniforms, one of them isn't an airman. Take a closer look and you'll see "U.S. Navy" emblazoned above the left pocket of the young mechanic's uniform.

He is part of a small group of naval mechanics who have been working in the 934th Maintenance Squadron for more than a year, unnoticed by most outside the squadron, except, of course, when he wears his dungarees.

"It shouldn't matter what branch of the service you're in; we're all here for the same reason and that's to get the job done," said **Chief Petty Officer Martin Hawthorne**, chief machinist mate and noncommissioned officer in charge of the 12 enlisted naval mechanics.

A few years ago, Hawthorne and others from the Naval Air Reserve Center, located just across the field from the 934th, were looking for training opportunities for their mechanics.

"Getting the work done and accomplishing all the training requirements each unit training assembly is tough," he said. "We offered to help."

The mechanics were put to work in the electrical, sheet metal, hydraulics, structural and life support shops in maintenance.

"Our people are set up here with training files, and they train to the Air Force standards," said Hawthorne. "They get signed off just like the Air Force. Several are close to earning their five level."

The P-3 Orion aircraft the naval mechanics were originally trained on uses the same engine as the C-130, he said.

"I think we are helping a lot," said **Petty Officer 3rd Class Julie Settell**, a mechanics mate. "The Air Force reservists really know their stuff so we get good training, and we have that noted on our training records."

Apparently, wing maintenance specialists welcome the trainees' expertise. "The additional assistance they provide helps us to get some of our auxiliary training completed while meeting mission requirements," said **Master Sgt. Gary Wallenhorst**, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of propulsion.

Nine months of the year the naval reservists drill here. The other three months they take care of Navy requirements, such as taking advancement exams, Hawthorne said.

Although Hawthorne sees his mechanics as contributory support to the MXS mission, once they earn five-skill levels, he says they may one day deploy alongside their 934th counterparts.

"It's really not anything unique," he said. "All branches of the service have had joint cooperative missions before. We'd deploy as part of the aircrew. We'd love to see if we could work it. It would be great training for us and a great contribution to the Air Force." □

Wing roundup

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson

Five unit members joined the efforts of five colleagues, previously deployed to Volk Field, Wis., to load a C-5 destined for Nicaragua in support of Hurricane Mitch relief. The pallet buildup, previously accomplished, consisted of 32 pallets and an ambulance. The January drill saw much the same, as 12 additional palets of cargo for the same location were built up for C-141 airlift on Jan. 23.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Senior Airman

Shana Strozewski

January was a month for adjustments for the squadron. We have set up our offices on the Guard side of the base, so members were very busy during the drill, traveling back and forth! A very special thank you to the 109th AES for allowing us use of their facilities. We also spent time preparing for our block training in the next two months.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Christopher Koch

The unit was very busy during the January unit training assembly, accomplishing their regular mission while getting used to temporary accommodations spread between the Reserve and Guard sides of the base. Our regular facility in Bldg. 840 is being remodeled (*story, Pages 4-5*), and we are

looking forward to returning in a few months.

96th Airlift Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Rick Glodek

January drill saw the pilots, navigators and loadmasters completing their yearly refresher training. The flight engineers will be doing theirs in March at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The wing commander briefed the squadron that they may be getting the "X" model C-130 within the next five years.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews

The unit recognized its outstanding airmen: **Senior Airman Jim Endres**, Airman of the Year; **Tech. Sgt. Tom Krueger**, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; and **Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Adriaens**, Senior NCO of the Year. Final preparation took place for the upcoming Silver Flag exercise, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., with 36 people deploying, Jan. 24. Engineering assistants have been conducting Global Positioning System pre-training for the exercise, finishing the preliminary design work for the classroom training project in Bldg. 802. Members of the equipment shop were up at 4 a.m. on Sunday of drill to clear snow from base streets, sidewalks and parking lots.

934th Communications Flight

Tech. Sgt. Anne Huhtala

and Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher, assistant chief of information management systems, assisted the 22nd Air Force Inspector General team at the 440th Airlift Wing, Milwaukee, Wis. During their Jan. 7-10 Staff Assistance Visit, she reviewed the wing's publications and forms management section.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Senior Master Sgt.

Robert McGonigal

The unit is preparing for the upcoming mobility exercise in May, with increased emphasis on job knowledge and quality.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken

During the drill weekend, maintenance members repaired a transient aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., removing and replacing two propellers and a torque indicator. This allowed the crew to meet their mission. Members also attended small arms training and the Equal Opportunity 2000 course, and some completed physicals.

934th Operations Support Flight

Tech. Sgt. Cara Utecht

The unit said good-bye to **Tech. Sgt. Lynn McGourty**, who served as the current operations/orderly room air reserve technician from October 1995. She is joining the 96th Airlift Squadron.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt.

Niklas Hammarberg

A promotion ceremony was held for **Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hanley**, the squadron's first chief. There was also a dress blues inspection and training on map orientation, determining grid coordinates, interviewing techniques, terrain features and inventory of A-bags and task qualification training bags.

934th Services Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Pamela Peck

Members working in the dining hall are preparing for the Hennessy Award inspection taking place in February. This is a worldwide award for the outstanding Reserve dining hall. The 934th has won the award twice in the past, and we wish luck to everyone involved. **Staff Sgt. Jim Rutz** was one of the winners in the "Monday Night Football Frenzy" competition (*story, Page 12.*)

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez

Officials are soliciting applications for a first sergeant for MSF. Interested individuals should contact **Lt. Col. Kristin Rudin**, commander, Ext. 1446. Resumes are due no later than Saturday of the February drill. In January, unit members received a comprehensive briefing on the new government credit card. □

Airmen of the Year 1998

Airman of the Year:

Senior Airman

Aidan Anderson

Unit/position: 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, aeromedical evacuation technician.

Job responsibilities: Provide in-flight care to casualties in transit during both peacetime and war, and to train for that mission. Work in medical readiness section, preparing and maintaining mobility items.

Education: Freshman, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; majoring in journalism.

Hobbies: Reading, writing, socializing, Vikings football and intramural sports — hockey and broomball.

Civilian occupation: Student; emergency medical technician and cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor.

Professional organizations: Kappa Sigma fraternity, University of Minnesota; National Rifle Association; NCO Club.

Goals: "To finish my studies at the university; to participate in upcoming deployments; to be the best student/airman I can be, preserving and defending my country and our way of life."

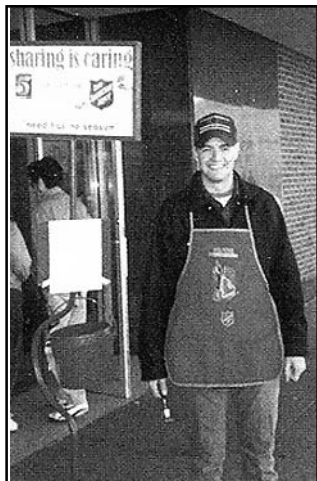
Family: Parents, **Michael Anderson** and **Rebecca Shear**; brothers, **Brandon** (17), **Colin** (15), **Evan** (12) and twins, **Sean** and **Tristan** (11); live in Red Wing, Minn.

Comments: "I'm very fortunate to work with such outstanding people in AES. I give special thanks to **Maj. Cleo Bonham** for her nomination ... Also, I owe much to my parents for instilling within me the basic values associated with striving for excellence. And I thank my friends and brothers at Kappa Sigma for their support as well." □

◀ **Anderson, a Salvation Army bell ringer during the holidays**



Anderson



Courtesy photo

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

Tech. Sgt.

Vicky Kuntz

Unit/position: 934th Airlift Wing, information management technician.

Job responsibilities: Unit training manager for wing headquarters and 934th Mission Support Flight.

Education: Associate's in computer science, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Fla.

Hobbies: Karate/kickboxing, serving as a Cub Scout leader, crocheting.

Civilian occupation: Program analyst, General Mills, Minneapolis.

Goals: "To follow the Cub Scout motto, 'Do your best,' in all that I do; to earn my black belt; and to contribute to the success of the 934th Airlift Wing."

Family: Husband, **Scott**; daughter, **Amy** (17); son, **Jacob** (9); live in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Comments: "It's great to be honored for doing something I enjoy so much." □



Kuntz

▶ **The Kuntz family, seated left to right: Vicky, Jacob and Amy, with Scott standing**



Courtesy photo

Wing selects 'best of the best' from nearly 1,200 reservists

Junior officer of the year, next page ▶

Senior NCO of the Year:

Master Sgt.

Darrell Habisch

Unit/position: 934th Airlift Wing, Office of Public Affairs; superintendent.

Job responsibilities:

Personnel training and career development; initiating/conducting commander's and public affairs policies, programs and objectives.

Education: Nearing completion of Community College of the Air Force degree in public affairs; attended Indiana and Purdue Universities Extension Campus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Hobbies: Reading, golf, building computers, learning "new math" with my kids.

Civilian occupation: Account executive, WCCO-TV, Minneapolis.

Professional organizations: Air Force Sergeants Association, Advertising Federation of Minnesota.

Goals: "To balance family, social, professional and business life; and complete bachelor's degree just to say that I finally made it."

Family: Wife, **Jodi**; daughters, **Emily** (10) and **Megan** (7); live in Forest Lake, Minn.

Comments: "I thank the many people who believed in me during the past 20 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Their encouragement, strength and criticisms — some of which I didn't want to hear — helped me take stock of who I was and where I wanted to be. At the risk of sounding maudlin, I thank the Air Force for giving me the opportunity to better myself. Air Force people taught me what pride, purpose and serving a cause greater than oneself is all about." □

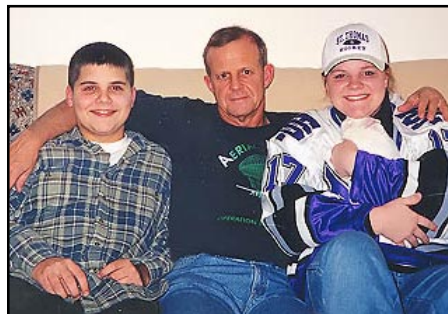


Habisch



◀ **Habisch (right) and his wife, Jodi**

Courtesy photo



◀ **Anderson (center); son, Paul (left); and daughter, Alicia (right)**

Courtesy photo

First Sergeant of the Year:

Master Sgt.

Thomas Anderson

Unit/position: 934th Maintenance Squadron, first sergeant.

Job responsibilities: Represent the interests of the enlisted members to the unit commander, while ensuring all members observe command policies and institutional values of the Air Force.

Education: Associate's, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; enrolled in Community College of the Air Force.

Hobbies: Reading, golf, watching my daughter play varsity hockey at the University of St. Thomas [St. Paul, Minn.], hockey game announcer for Rosemount High School, spending time with my son and daughter.

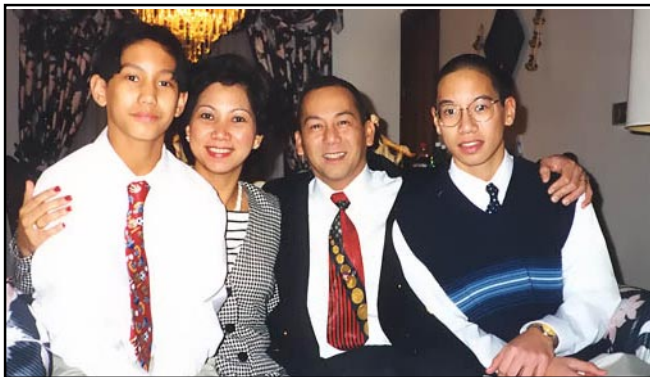
Civilian occupation: Disability specialist, Social Security Administration and State of Minnesota.

Professional organizations: Air Force Sergeants Association, Air Force Association, life member of VFW, American Association of Retired Persons.

Goals: "To do my part in assuring that the 934th Maintenance Squadron remains the No. 1 maintenance unit in the Air Force; and, hopefully, one more TDY [temporary duty] to Panama!"

Family: Daughter, **Alicia** (19); and son, **Paul** (14); live in St. Paul.

Comments: This award would not have been possible without the direct support of my commander, **Maj. Chris Lewis**, and most importantly, the members of the squadron. I'll never be able to thank them enough for their dedication, hard work and loyalty over the years. They have truly made my job not only easier but also enjoyable, fun and very rewarding. I'm deeply humbled!" □



Courtesy photo

▲ *The Galvez family, left to right: Anthony, Gloria, Ed and Richie*

Junior Officer of the Year:

1st Lt.

Edgardo Galvez

Unit/position: 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, clinical nurse.

Job responsibilities: Staff development officer and officer in charge of Veterans Administration Medical Center training for medical technicians and nurses.

Education: Bachelor's in nursing, Concordia University, River Forest, Ill.; Bachelor's in medical technology, Manila Central University, Manila, Philippines.

Hobbies: Collecting stamps, coins and military memorabilia.

Civilian occupation: Critical care/trauma registered nurse in trauma unit of Cook County Hospital, Chicago, and registered respiratory therapist for McNeal Hospital, Berywn, Ill.

Professional organizations: Life member, Reserve Officer Association; American Association of Critical Care; American Association of Respiratory Care Practitioner.

Goals: "To be a member of the critical care team of the Air Force Reserve and a nurse practitioner in adult critical care."

Family: Wife, Gloria; sons, Richie (15) and Anthony (13); live in Chicago.

Comments: "I'm very proud and honored to be chosen junior officer of the year for the wing. I'm thankful for the support of my wife and children, because I know in my heart that they, too, sacrifice a lot in order for me to receive such an award ... I'm also thankful for the understanding and support of my employer, Cook County Hospital." □



Galvez

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Richard Curry, AS, retired
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Davidson, AW, retired

Aerial Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Scott Hellzen, AS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Marjorie Boldenow, AES
Tech. Sgt. John Byerly, AW
Capt. Jeffrey Dyrhaug, AS, second oak leaf cluster
2nd Lt. Gail Gregor, ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Knowles, AES
Capt. Mark Vijums, OSF, first OLC
Master Sgt. Michael Webster, APS, second oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. John Chalich, SFS, second OLC
Capt. Carol Freerks, AES
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Nordstrom Jr., LSS
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Orr, SFS

Promotions

Staff Sgt. Kermit Anstine, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Eric Bergdahl, APS
Senior Airman Timothy Breuhl, AW
Tech. Sgt. Raymond Cleveland, APS
Tech. Sgt. Eric Decamp, AS
Tech. Sgt. Wayne Grudnoske, AS
Tech. Sgt. Michael Jelinek, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Dennis Johnson, SFS
Tech. Sgt. Casey Keller, AW
Staff Sgt. William Liberatore, MSF
Senior Airman Kevin Miller, APS
Tech. Sgt. Curtis Moe, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Charles Nowicki, ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Christopher

Reese, AES

Tech. Sgt. Bradley Rogers, SFS
Master Sgt. Patricia Sahr, APS
Staff Sgt. Jeffery Spaulding, MXS
Staff Sgt. Raymond Whitehead, AES

Newcomers

► Capt. Pamela Clanton, ASTS, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
► Senior Airman John Daye, MSF, Kelly AFB, Texas
► Capt. Neal Landeen, SVS, Individual Mobilization Augmentee
► Senior Airman Lucas Resemius, CES, Kunsan AFB, Korea.
► Senior Airman Paul Tobkin, APS, prior service Air Force

Re-enlistments

Staff Sgt. Kelly Bochniak, AES
Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Boettner, MSF
Staff Sgt. Scott Brown, LSS
Master Sgt. Paul Burnett, AW
Staff Sgt. James Cullum, APS
Staff Sgt. Earl Dodge Jr., MXS
Senior Airman Howard Glockzin, APS
Staff Sgt. Michael Hanks, SVS
Senior Airman Tasnim Hassan, MXS
Master Sgt. John Hoffman, AS
Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hutchinson, MXS
Staff Sgt. Dennis Johnson, SVS
Senior Master Sgt. Robert Kahl, SFS
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Kellington, APS
Master Sgt. Richard Klick, MXS
Master Sgt. Arthur Komomua, MSF
Airman Kaci Lawrence, ASTS
Senior Airman Todd Littfin, AW
Staff Sgt. Gerard Marking, APS
Airman 1st Class Donald Miller, SFS
Tech. Sgt. Wayne Nelson, LSS
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Nordstrom Jr., LSS

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Tech. Sgt. Scott Novak, CES
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Orr, SFS
Master Sgt. Randy Polansky, CES
Tech. Sgt. Steven Priebe, MXS
Master Sgt. Darryl Radford, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Richard Reinhart, MXS
Master Sgt. Terrence Rice, LSS
Tech. Sgt. Robert Rivard Jr., SFS
Staff Sgt. Andrew Rossland, LSS
Staff Sgt. Brent Saba, CES
Tech. Sgt. Michael Sabaka, MXS
Master Sgt. David Sowers, CES
Tech. Sgt. Janet Stafford, APS
Senior Airman Paul Tobkin, APS
Staff Sgt. Erica Twardy, SVS

Achievements

► **Staff Sgt. Michael Allen, Capt. Kirby Bauer, Master Sgt. Charlie Epps, Tech. Sgt. Tim Mikesch and Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson, CF**, received letters of appreciation from the Family Readiness Center for their years of support and partnership.

► **Master Sgt. John Bruns and Tech. Sgt. Tom Stratton, LSS**, received certificates as outstanding volunteers in the 1998 Paint-A-Thon.

► **Capt. Michael Johnson, Capt. Lynn Rydberg and 1st Lt. Randy Rydberg, AES**, were selected as unit

members of the month in January.

► **Master Sgt. Mike King, LSS**, was selected as the squadron's quarterly Outstanding Service Volunteer.

► **Master Sgt. Steve Nicolai, CES**, was selected as an honor graduate of the Regional Equipment Operators School in Pennsylvania.

► **Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson, CF**, received a letter of appreciation from Northern States Power for representing the Air Force Reserve during Veterans Day activities, Nov. 11.

Births

Eric Sund, APS, and his wife, **Laurie**, have a new son, **Eliot Michael**, born Dec. 4, weighing 5 pounds, 10 1/2 ounces.

Retirements

Lt. Col. Richard Curry, AS, 26 years. □

Viking Search: Achievements Retirements Security forces full-time technicians

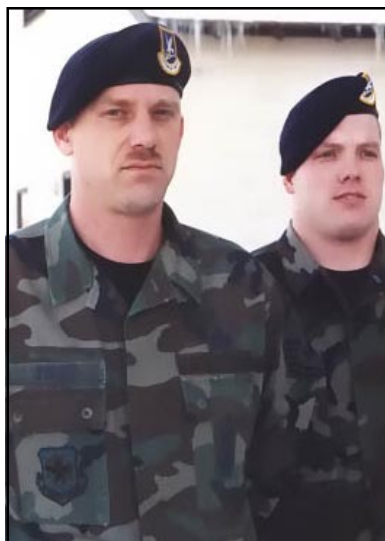
Clip this for a colleague or family member and assist recruiters in their search for new reservists.

Specialty code/unit: Military, 3P031. Civilian, 0080, GS-7 through GS-11, security specialist; 0085, GS-5, security guard; and 1712, GS-9, training specialist. 934th Security Forces Squadron. There was a gain of 11 new air reserve technician positions in the 934th Security Forces Squadron, effective Oct. 1.

Training: Must have

(Continued on next page) ► previous experience/training.

Contact: Air Force Reserve Command Special Examining Unit, Macon, Ga., (912) 327-0113. For an application kit, "How to Become an ART," drop by the 934th Civilian Personnel Office, Bldg. 760, Room 250A, or call **Beverly Foster**, Ext. 1483. Also, details are found on the AFRC home page at: <http://www.afres.af.mil/> Click on "Job Openings" and then "ART Job Opportunities" for application guidance and



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

► **Master Sgt. Bryan Voigt, left, is an air reserve technician with the 934th Security Forces Squadron. At right is Staff Sgt. Bradley Bergman, traditional reservist in the unit.**

Service certificates

job descriptions. For recruiting information, call the 934th Recruiting Office, (612) 713-1456. □



Wing around the world: February

27th APS: Georgia
934th AES: Bosnia, California, Florida, Germany, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas
934th ASTS: California, Texas
96th AS: California, Illinois, North Carolina, Panama
934th AW HQ/MSF: No travel
934th CES: Alabama, Arizona, Texas
934th CF: Wisconsin
934th LSS: Maryland, Texas
934th MXS: California, Illinois, North Carolina, Panama, Texas
934th OSF: Panama
934th SFS: Georgia
934th SVS: No travel
This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron, 713-1741, or the local Air National Guard wing, 713-2450. □

Services Briefs

NCO Club

The **Blue Denim Band** will play on the unit assembly weekend, Saturday, Feb. 6. Show time is 8:30 p.m. for this variety band.

Valentine's Day Dinner will be on Saturday, Feb. 13. The \$19.95 per person includes a steak and lobster dinner, a glass of wine and entertainment.

A **two-for-one dinner** is set for Tuesday, Feb. 23, with fried shrimp as the evening special.

Breakfast every day is a club specialty, served 7-9:30 a.m.

☎Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

Officers Club

The **Ivory Keys Show and Dance Band** performs their Las Vegas-style show on two Fridays this month, Feb. 5 and Feb. 26. A disc jockey will then play hits late into the evening.

A **Hawaiian luau** is set for Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6-10 p.m., featuring Hawaiian-style pork roast and authentic island dishes. Admission and buffet is free for club members and \$5 for guests. Hawaiian music, contests and specials will be featured.

A **Valentine's Day Dinner** is set for Saturday, Feb. 13. For \$39.95 per couple, the menu features steak and lobster, potato, soup, rolls and dessert — strawberry and vanilla mousse — and a bottle of champagne. Strolling musicians will provide entertainment.

A **winter warm up cigar and cognac special** will be offered all month in the lounge.

A **new wine menu** is now available, with a free taste test during dinner on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There will be \$1 off if you purchase a bottle.

☎For reservations or information, call the front desk lines, Ext. 3678.

Recreation services

Bowling will be hosted on Saturday, Feb. 6, starting at 7 p.m. at the Stardust Lanes Bowling Alley, Minneapolis. Cost is \$10 per person, including three games, shoes, food tickets and free prizes.

A **winter fitness center brochure** is now available on equipment rental and discount ticket information for attractions in California, Colorado, Florida and Minnesota.

☎For details, call recreation services, Ext. 1128. □

Super Bowl bound

Reservist wins prize of a lifetime in NCO Club "Football Frenzy"

Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean

Public Affairs

For fans of the purple and gold, hopes fell short of a trip to the Super Bowl for the Vikings this season. For **Staff Sgt. James Rutz**, 934th Services Squadron, however, a Super Bowl trip is already carved in stone.

Rutz beat the odds and was selected as one of five winners of the Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Air Force "Football Frenzy" Super Bowl challenge. His name was drawn from more than 300,000 entries to receive two game tickets, round-trip airfare to the game in Miami, four nights' accommodations and a limousine ride to see the game between the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Falcons, Jan. 31.

Additionally, the 934th awarded Rutz with two T-shirts, a framed letter of congratulations from the commander and assorted keepsakes.

"I was totally shocked ... I mean, it's a chance of a lifetime," said Rutz after learning he'd been selected. "I'll be taking a friend to the game."

Melissa Blasier, services marketing director, explained the contest was open to NCO Club members, active-duty and reserve forces, who filled out the free entry form when watching Monday night games at the club this season.

"Not only is it phenomenal that Sergeant Rutz was selected out of over 300,000 entries, but also because he only had two entries in the pool," Blasier said. "He lives in Michigan and was only able to be out here for Monday Night games during a couple of mandays."

Blasier said the contest was an incentive to become and remain an NCO Club member and was only open to members. "Now we can tell potential members about the Super Bowl winner we had in the contest this year," she said.

Rutz said that he almost didn't bother entering, but a co-worker with him at the club one Monday night said, "Why not? Anyone could win the contest." Rutz got the call from club staff prior to the January unit training assembly to let him know he was the winner. "They called me at home in Michigan and I was shocked," he said.

A future *Viking Flyer* will feature a follow-up on Rutz after his trip to the Super Bowl. □



Rutz